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Whence We Came

Harvey Alfred Zinszer

1961

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Harvey Alfred Zinszer

1961

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WHENCE WE CAME

A genealogical Study of our Forebears.
—Harvey Alfred Zinszer, (1961)

Wohl dem, der seiner Vaeter gern gedenkt,
Der froh von ihren Taten, ihrer Groese
Den Hoerer unterhaelt und still sich freuend
Ans Ende dieser schoenen Kette sich
Geschlossen sieht.

—v. Goethe

Your mother, Laura Mary Laudenslager, and I, Harvey Alfred Zinszer, were united in matrimony on August 16th, 1909, in the home of the bride's parents and in the presence of a small number of close relatives. The Reverend Harry M. J. Klein, pastor of Zion's Reformed Church in Allentown, performed the ceremony upon the conclusion of which we boarded the "Mermaid," the crack train of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, for Scranton where I was employed as night chief operator by the Western Union Telegraph Company. This ceremony formed the basis of what I am about to relate for with its consummation, there sprang into being the union of eight different family branches as follows:

On July 5th, 1885, there were united in marriage in Philadelphia Louis Theodore Zinszer of Allentown and Anna Maria Enghauser of Philadelphia, parents of the foregoing groom. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Charles F. C. Suckow, pastor of the Fifth Reformed Church in Philadelphia.

Also, on December 29th, 1888, there were united in marriage in Allentown the parents of the foregoing bride, namely, Howard Jacob Laudenslager of Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, and Ida Savilla Oberly of Hokendauqua, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Edwin A. Gernent, pastor of Zion's Reformed Church of Allentown.

Louis Theodore Zinszer was the second child of Johannes Zinszer of Gruenberg "im Grossherzogthum, Hessen Darmstadt" and Catharina Knoechel of Springfield Township in Bucks County, then a part of Northampton County, Pennsylvania; while Anna Maria Enghauser was the fourth child of Franz Enghauser of Kenzingen, Baden, and Barbara Wankmueller of Schwann, Wuerttemberg, Germany.

Howard Jacob Laudenslager was the oldest child of Milton Jacob Laudenslager of Salisbury Township, Le-

high County, and Susanna Spinner of the same place; while Ida Savilla Oberly was the third child of Jacob J. Oberly and Marietta E. Dech, both of Hokendauqua, Lehigh County.

TRANSLATION: Hail to him who eagerly remembers his forefathers;
Who gladly entertains his hearer with their deeds, their fame;
And who secretly rejoices in seeing himself locked
At the end of this beautiful chain.

My paternal grandparents were Johannes Zinsser born in Gruenberg in Hessen, April 3rd, 1819; emigrated between 1840 and 1845 to America; settled in Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, where he eventually acquired the village smithy, an old colonial establishment erected during the Revolutionary War days on the Bethlehem-Philadelphia turn-pike to facilitate repairs for colonial troops engaged in that vicinity; was married on June 23rd, 1846, to Katharina Knoechel, daughter of Wilhelm Knoechel and his wife, Elizabeth Butz, of Springfield Township, now in Bucks County, Penn'a. Not only was their union blessed with fourteen children, but grandfather Johannes was an ardent militiaman attested to by a commission as second lieutenant of Co. D. 4th Regt., Pennsylvania Militia, now in my possession.

My maternal grandparents were Franz Enghauser born in Kenzingen in Baden August 29th, 1829; emigrated to America as a follower of the German patriot, Karl Schurz; was married about 1854 to Barbara Wankmueller, daughter of Gottfried Wankmueller of Schwann in Wuerttemberg and Magdalene Barbara Faass of Ottenhausen. (Exactly when and where the marriage of Franz and Barbara was consummated is unknown but from a letter in my possession dated Pforzheim 25 Juli, 1904, by grandmother's nephew, Ludwig Friedrich Wankmueller, I suspect that the marriage occurred in Germany before their emigration to America.) Eventually, Franz and his bride arrived in Philadelphia where he took up weaving which then flourished in that city. Five children were born to them; two girls, Bertha and Anna Maria, the latter my mother, and three boys two of which died in infancy but the eldest, Albert, grew to manhood and suddenly disappeared never to return. Grandfather Franz was a follower of Karl Schurz and when President Lincoln beseeched Schurz to recruit a regiment of his countrymen, Franz enlisted in the cause of the Union and served throughout the entire period of the War; his outfit was Company D, 75th Pennsylvania Volunteers. (I possess grandfather's honorable discharge as well as his inkwell which he carried throughout the War.) Hearsay has it that grandfather Franz was wounded both at Bull Run and at Gettysburg, but the War Department has no

record of the former event; however, I personally saw his name among the wounded on the Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg.

On my wife Laura's side, we find as her paternal grandparents, Milton Jacob Laudenslager born in Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, on May 15th, 1843; married October 5th, 1865, to Susanna Spinner, daughter of Reuben Spinner and Catherine Diehl of Salisbury Township. Grandfather Milton was a farmer all of his life and lived in the old Spinner homestead on the lower road to South Bethlehem. He served as a private in Company D, 41st Regt., Penn's Militia, under Colonel Mayer in 1863 until discharged for special civilian service. They raised four children, the eldest of whom was my father-in-law, Howard Jacob Laudenslager.

On Laura's maternal side, her grandparents were Jacob J. Oberly of Hecktown, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, born November 29, 1836; and, Marietta Dech, born May 8, 1836; they were married September 9, 1858.

Thus going back two generations from our own marriage, one discovers eight distinct families to have contributed to our well-being, namely the Zinsser, the Knoechel, the Enghauser, the Wankmueller, the Laudenslager, the Spinner, the Oberly, and the Dech families. I shall endeavor in what follows to extend each of these families as far as possible, but before considering each family line individually permit me to disclose the final resting place of each of the above named great grandparents, to wit:

Johannes Zinsser and his wife Catharina Knoechel are buried in the Union Cemetery in Allentown; Franz Enghauser's remains were disinterred from Franklin Cemetery in Philadelphia and reinterred in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bensalem Township, Bucks County; while his wife, Barbara Wankmueller, is buried in the plot of her son-in-law, Silas Knechel, in Fairview Cemetery, Allentown; Milton J. Laudenslager and wife, Susanna Spinner, are buried in the West Salisbury Church Cemetery, while Jacob J. Oberly and his wife, Marietta Dech, are buried in the Schoenersville Cemetery, a few miles north of East Allentown.

It will be my pleasure henceforth to elaborate upon each of these families in the order in which they have already been mentioned, and to go as far back as my research has revealed.

THE ZINSSERS

The Zinsser Stammtafel compiled by Pfarrer Ferdinand Doerr (Bad Nauheim, Hessen); Oberstaatsanwalt George Loening (Bremen); Dr. Richard Zinsser (Murr, Wuerttemberg); and Rudolf Zinsser (Stuttgart), was published in Bremen in 1935. It commences with one by name of Hans Zintzer who migrated to Gruenberg/Hessen from Bavaria in about 1596. Hans was survived by a son, Goerg, a manger, in Lauterbach, who presumably originated the Zinsser wappen (coat of arms) in 1634. Goerg was born about 1598 and died in 1639; he was survived by a son named Velte.

The name "Zinsser" is related to the word "Zins" which comes from Latin "Centrum" meaning hundred, and the Latin "census" meaning assessment, etc. It is a moot question whether Zinsser denotes a profession or whether it means a peasant bound by tithes. The various ways of writing the name are of little importance since formerly names were mostly handed down by word of mouth.

In the oldest parochial books in Gruenberg, the name is written with a "tz" which later became an "ss". But "ss" as written in German appears like English "sz" which accounts for the Allentown branch using "sz" instead of "ss". The Scottish branch dropped the "z" and spell their name as "Zinser", while the Protestant-Hessian branch use the double-ess (ss).

To date, Hans Zintzer has been found to be the earliest ancestor of the Gruenberg branch of the Zinsser family (see Table #1 in the Stammtafel). In the 3rd volume of the Gruenberg municipal books, it states on page 48: "on the 4th of October, 1596, the following young citizens administered an oath before the bailiff, Walter Happeln, at court . . . Hans Zintzer of Bavaria;" Perhaps at a future date when the Bavarian-Zinsser line has been more closely investigated, the origin of Hans Zintzer will be more accurately ascertained. It seems that he married a

daughter of a Gruenberg citizen in 1596. Her name was Helene and she died Jan. 13th, 1661, in a Gruenberg hospital at the age of about 89.

Presumably Hans was a dyer as he followed this profession in Gruenberg and though an outsider (he lived in the "Neustadt" at that time), he was included at an early date in the list of Gruenberg citizens. At any rate, he must be considered as the founder of the famous dyer-family of Zinssers who later branched out in Upper Hessen. It has been proven that both his sons, Johannes and Georg (See Tables 2 & 3 of the Stammtafel) were dyers and that his descendants carried on the dying-business in Upper Hessen for two and a half centuries into the 7th and 8th generations. Thus they were important citizens of whom their descendants can be proud. In Pfarrer Ferdinand Doerr's contribution to the Stammtafel, he admonishes: "Do not allow that which thou hast inherited from thy fathers to perish, but honor it and replenish it ever anew through diligence and fidelity."

In April, 1913, while docking in Charleston, South Carolina, on the S. S. Huron of which I was second "sparks", I received a letter from Germany forwarded to me by my mother in Allentown. This letter was written by Dr. Gustav Zinsser, a professor of natural science at the University of Marburg/Hessen. The closing paragraph of this letter reads as follows:

"I have made a thorough study about the history of Gruenberg, the city of our ancestors and especially about the latter. I have studied old books and very many hand-written papers many hundred years old; so I could tell you more of our ancestors if you are interested. I would like to have the exact dates of your family beginning with your grandfather to complete our genealogy."

The search resulting from this letter together with my experience in looking up my wife Laura's ancestors, for admission into the Daughters of the American Revolution, prior to 1935, gave me both the experience and an incentive to do something about our own immediate ancestors. The culmination of this ambition is in the form of the present paper. For those of you who have never seen the Stammtafel, the preface of this fine work gives ample credit to the widow of Dr. Gustav Zinsser of Marburg for his noteworthy contribution to the Stammtafel.

ZINSSER LINE

Having pointed out the eight distinct lines converging to the union of your parents, Laura Mary Laudenslager and Harvey Alfred Zinszer, I now take pleasure in tabulating these respective lines. The data for the Zinszer line came directly from the Stammtafel.

Hans Zintzer (Faerber) Aus Bayern
Seit 1596 Buerger von Gruenberg; Stammvater der Zinssers
|
Georg (Manger)
Lauterbach u. Alsfeld, 1598-1639
|
Velte oder Valentin (Faerber)
Gruenberg, 1634-1697
|
Johann Martin (Faerber)
Gruenberg, 1662-1732
|
Christoph (Faerber)
Gruenberg, 1709-1769
|
Johann Philipp (Faerber)
Gruenberg, 1746-1827
|
Johann Christoph (Wagnermeister)
Gruenberg, 1781-1861
|
Johannes (Schmiedmeister)
Gruenberg u. Allentown, Pa. 1819-1872
|
Louis Theodore (Schmiedmeister)
Allentown, Pa., 1848-1912
|
Harvey Alfred (Professor der Physik)
Allentown and Hays, Kansas 1886-

NOTE: The foregoing is merely the direct line and does not include brothers or sisters all of whom can be ascertained from the Stammtafel.

The Zinsser Stammtafel, a copy of which I fortunately possess, is a most scientifically arranged and scholarly volume. Here the dates of birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage and death are scrupulously enumerated together with vocation and wife's lineage. In the index appear first the names and table number of the sons; next, the names of the daughters with their table numbers; and, finally, the names of the in-laws with their table numbers. Following the index appears a geographical distribution

or Verzeichnis, of the various persons enumerated in the 182 tables as to country, state or province, and city or village.

THE KNOECHELS

The only data I have at this writing (May, 1959) concerning the Knoechel Line is my grandmother Zinsszer's "Die Bibel," published in German by the American Bible Society in 1849; and, a collapsing or telescopic folder entitled "Record of Our Famylie" of which the former gives a slightly better record, to wit:

"Eltern: Johannes Zinsser, geb. d. 3ten April, 1819, in Gruenberg im Groszherzogthum, Hessen-Darmstadt in Deutschland, ein Sohn von Christoph Zinsser und seiner Ehefrau Louisa, geb. Seibel, wurde am 23t Juny, 1846, durch Pfarrer G. A. Reichert in Philadelphia ehelich verbunden mit: Catharina, geb. d. 15t Juny, 1826, in Springfield, Northampton Co. in Pensylvanien, eine Tochter von William Knoechel und seiner Ehefrau Elizabeth, eine geborne Butz." (The place of birth of Catharina is given in the "Record" as Springfield Township and not as Springfield, Northampton Co. as in "Die Bibel." Also from the handwriting and color of ink it appears that the above entry was made in about 1854.)

Upon examining the map of Northampton County, I failed to locate a Springfield Twp. in it, but I learned later that Northampton County boundaries had been revised and that today, Springfield Twp. lies in Bucks County. Indeed, a map of Bucks County sent to me by the County Clerk's office in Doylestown shows three logical communities from which my grandmother might have originated, namely, the villages of Springtown, Pleasant Valley and Rock Hill, all in Springfield Twp., Bucks County, Needless to say, that I have initiated a fresh line of procedure which should yield additional results in due time. Nevertheless, I cannot conclude these remarks without telling that my father Louis Theodore was both a brother-in-law and a first cousin to my Uncle Silas Knechel, which implies that my grandmother Catharina must have been a sister to the father of Uncle Silas Knechel. Moreover, Grandmother Catharina had a sister named Carolina married to a Joseph Andras, and a step-brother named Reuben.

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KNOECHEL LINE

Wilhelm Knoechel (Bauer)
born about 1800 in Germany
married to Elizabeth Butz, place & date unkn.
died about 1860; burial probably Springfield Twp.

|

Katharina Knoechel, daughter of Wilhelm & Elizabeth
born 15-VI-1826, Springfield Twp.
married to Johannes Zinsser, Philadelphia 23-VI-1846
died 1890; burial Union Cemetery, Allentown

|

Louis Theodore Zinszer, son of Johannes & Katharina
born 7-VI-1848, Allentown
married to Anna Maria Enghauser, 5-VII-1885, Philadelphia
died 30-VI-1912; burial Fairview Cemetery, Allentown

|

Harvey Alfred Zinszer, son of Louis & Anna Maria
born 2-VII-1886, Allentown
married to Laura Mary Laudenslager, 16-VIII-1909, Allentown

ENGHAUSER LINE

Konrad Enghauser (vocation unkn)
born in Kenzingen/Baden circa 1807
married to Antonie (born Enghauser) circa 1828
died in Germany; burial probably Kenzingen

|

Franz Enghauser, (weber)
born 29-VIII-1829, Kenzingen/Baden
married to Barbara Wankmueller of Schwann/Wuertt, circa 1854
died 1887 Philadelphia; burial Franklin Cemetery, later Bensalem Twp, Bucks Co.

|

Anna Maria Enghauser, daughter of Franz and Barbara
born Philadelphia 20-XI-1865
married to Louis Theodore Zinszer, 5-VII-1885
died 10-XII-1943; burial Fairview Cemetery, Allentown

|

Harvey Alfred Zinszer, (telegrapher & professor)
born Allentown, 2-VII-1886
married to Laura Mary Laudenslager, Allentown, 16-VIII-1909

WANKMUELLER LINE

Johann Michael Wankmueller (Buerger u. Bauer)
born Schwann/Wuertt. 25-XII-1668
married to Katharina Dann of Ittersbach, 6-X-1705
died 12-III-1748; burial in Schwann

|

Jakob Christoph Wankmueller, (Buerger u. Bauer)
born Schwann/Wuertt. 19-VIII-1713
married to Maria Susanna Schofer, Schwann, 14-VI-1740
died 25-IV-1777; burial in Schwann

|

Johann Ludwig Wankmueller, (Buerger u. Bauer)
born Schwann/Wuertt. 7-V-1741
married to Maria Barbara Aldinger, Schwann, 8-X-1765
died 30-I-1820; burial in Schwann

|

Gottfried Wankmueller, (Buerger u. Schreiner)
born Schwann 12-II-1784
married to Magdalene Barbara Faass of Ottenhausen, 16-XI-1809
died 22-V-1852; burial in Schwann

|

Barbara Wankmueller, daughter of Gottfried and Magdalene
born in Schwann/Wuertt. 29-VII-1826
married to Franz Enghauser, probably in Germany, circa 1854
died 12-VI-1904; burial Fairview Cemetery, Allentown

|

Anna Maria Enghauser, daughter of Franz and Barbara
born Philadelphia, 20-XI-1865
married to Louis Theodore Zinszer in Philadelphia, 5-VII-1885
died 10-XII-1943; burial Fairview Cemetery, Allentown

|

Harvey Alfred Zinszer, (Telegrapher & Physicist)
born Allentown, 2-VII-1886
married to Laura Mary Laudenslager in Allentown, 16-VIII-1909

LAUDENSLAGER LINE

John Adam Laud(la)schlager, born Germany,
18-V-1770
married to a Brunner woman circa 1791; place unkn.
died 30-VI-1847; burial Old Tenth Street Cemetery,
Allentown

|

Jacob Laudenschlager, (Bauer)
born 24-III-1803, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Mary Ann Ritter circa 1835; place unkn.
died 4-IX-1885; burial Salisbury Church Cemetery

|

Milton Jacob Laudenslager, (Bauer)
born 13-V-1843, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Susanna Spinner. Allentown, 5-X-1865
died 2-II-1919; burial Salisbury Church Cemetery

|

Howard Jacob Laudenslager, (Blacksmith & Bank
Messenger)
born 8-V-1866, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Ida Savilla Oberly, Hokendauqua,
29-XII-1887
died 12-X-1925; burial Schoenersville Cemetery

|

Laura Mary Laudenslager, daughter of Howard
Jacob and Ida Savilla
born 24-V-1890, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Harvey Alfred Zinszer, Allentown,
16-VIII-1909

SPINNER LINE

Jacob Spinner, (Bauer)
born 3-III-1740, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Maria Catherine Stoudt, Allentown,
9-XI-1759
died circa 1800; burial Salisbury Church Cemetery

|

John Spinner, (Bauer)
born 11-II-1797, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Susanna Wharton, Philadelphia, circa
1817
died 2-IV-1869; burial Salisbury Church Cemetery

|

Reuben Spinner, (Bauer)
born 5-VI-1818, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Catherine Diehl. Allentown, circa 1840
died 24-III-1886; burial Salisbury Church Cemetery

|

Susanna Spinner, daughter of Reuber & Catherine
born 15-V-1843, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.

married to Milton Jacob Laudenslager, Allentown, 5-X-1865
died 3-VI-1919; burial Salisbury Church Cemetery

|

Howard Jacob Laudenslager, (Blacksmith and Bank Messenger)
born 8-V-1866, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Ida Savilla Oberly, Hokendauqua, 29-XII-1887
died 12-X-1925; burial Schoenersville Cemetery

|

Laura Mary Laudenslager, daughter of Howard Jacob and Ida Savilla
born 24-V-1890, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Harvey Alfred Zinszer, Allentown, 16-VIII-1909

OBERLY LINE

John Rudolph Oberly, (Bauer)
born 8-VI-1712 in Ruderswyl, Canton of Berne, Switzerland
married to Anna Margaret Harbell, Northampton Co., circa 1740
died 1-II-1780; burial Lower Saucon Church Cemetery

|

John Oberly I, (Bauer)
born 9-VII-1746, Northampton Co., Pa.
married to Elizabeth Uhler, Easton, Pa., 6-IV-1772
died 19-VIII-1805; burial Easton Cemetery

|

John Oberly II, (Bauer)
born 2-XII-1781, Northampton Co., Pa.
married to Catherine Schweitzer, Easton, Pa., circa 1805
died 23-VIII-1833; burial Farmersville Cemetery

|

Robert Oberly, (Bauer)
born 28-IX-1814, Northampton Co., Pa.
married to Elizabeth Best, Easton, 28-VI-1836
died 8-III-1866; burial Schoenersville Cemetery

|

Jacob J. Oberly, (Bauer)
born 29-XI-1836, Hanover Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Marietta Dech, Easton, 9-IX-1858

died 1-VI-1899; burial Schoenersville Cemetery

|

Ida Savilla Oberly, daughter of Jacob & Marietta
born 29-V-1862, Hanover Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Howard Jacob Laudenslager, Allentown, 29-XII-1887
died 5-IX-1949; burial Schoenersville Cemetery

|

Laura Mary Laudenslager, daughter of Howard Jacob & Ida Savilla
born 24-V-1890, Allentown
married to Harvey Alfred Zinszer, Allentown, 16-VIII-1909

DECH LINE

John Oberly I, (Bauer)
born 9-VII-1746, Northampton Co., Pa.
married to Elizabeth Uhler, Easton, Pa., 6-IV-1772
died 19-VIII-1805; burial Easton Cemetery

|

Mary Magdalene Oberly, daughter of John Oberly I & Elizabeth Uhler
born 20-V-1784, Northampton Co., Pa.
married to Jacob Dech, Hokendauqua, 18-VIII-1803
died 18-IX-1863; burial Hecktown Cemetery

|

Charles Dech, (Bauer)
born 3-IX-1810, Hokendaugua
married to Lydia Koehler circa 1836
died 11-XII-1853; burial Dryland Church Cemetery

|

Marietta Dech, daughter of Charles Dech & Lydia Koehler
born 8-V-1838, Hokendauqua
married to Jacob J. Oberly, Hokendauqua, 9-IX-1858
died 5-X-1887; burial Schoenersville Cemetery

|

Ida Savilla Oberly, daughter of Jacob J. Oberly & Marietta Dech
born 29-V-1862, Hanover Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Howard Jacob Laudenslager, Allentown, 29-XII-1887
died 5-IX-1949; burial Schoenersville Cemetery

|

Laura Mary Laudenslager, daughter of Howard Jacob & Ida Savilla
born 24-V-1890, Salisbury Twp., Lehigh Co.
married to Harvey Alfred Zinszer, Allentown, 16-VIII-1909

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SERVICE

Laura Mary Zinszer nee Laudenslager is the great great great grand-daughter of Martin Ritter I, born Nov. 10, 1749 and died Nov. 2, 1827. He is buried in a single grave, the seventh in the fifth row, in Western Salisbury Cemetery (Old Part). This lineage is established through Mary Ann Ritter, wife of Jacob Laudenslager, her great grandmother.

Martin Ritter I was one of four brothers, sons of Hendrick Reuther who arrived at Philadelphia on the S. S. Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 1732, from Rotterdam. Hendrick secured by warrant dated March 16, 1737, a tract of 170 acres and 149 perches in Bucks County near the present Lower Milford Twp. On Sept. 11, 1740, Hendrick was naturalized changing his name to Henry Ritter.

Martin Ritter I was a private, first class, in the 7th Co., 1st Battalion, under Capt. Francis Rhoades; he was also sergeant in the 4th Co., 2nd Battalion under Capt. John Moritz. (Penna. Archives, 5th Series, Vol. VIII., pp 109, 152, 157 & 190; see also Vol. 1, pp. 134 & 150 Anniversary History of Lehigh Co., Penna.)

Laura Mary was elected into membership of D.A.R. in 1937 as #302, 131 on the Roll.

Laura Mary Zinszer nee Laudenslager is also the great great great grand-daughter of Jacob Spinner born March 3rd, 1740 and died date unknown, but was married to Maria Catherine Stoudt Nov. 9th, 1759, he being the great grandfather to Susanna Laudenslager nee Spinner, Laura Mary's grandmother.

Jacob Spinner was an ensign in the 7th Co., 1st Battalion, Militia of Northampton Co. under Capt. Francis Rhoads. (Penna. Archives, 5th Series, Vol. VIII, pp. 30 & 90; also Vol. 1 p 134 and Vol. III p 791 of the Anniversary History of Lehigh Co., Penn'a.)

Laura Mary Zinszer nee Laudenslager is also the great great great grand-daughter of John Oberly I, son of John Rudolph Oberly who hailed from Ruderswyl, Canton of Berne, Switzerland, and who migrated to America in the S. S. Mercury, William Wilson, master, out of Rotterdam May 29th, 1735. The ship's passengers

comprised 64 men, 51 women, 37 boys and 34 girls, 186 in all, comprising Palatinates and Switzers.

(John) Rudolph Oberly was issued a patent on Jan. 8th, 1755, for 210 acres and 15 perches, and later, July 1st, 1765, for 23 acres and 30 perches, under the name of Rudolph Oberly which he used in preference to John Rudolph. He was naturalized by the Supreme Court at Philadelphia Sept. 24th, 1757. The name of Rudolph Oberly appears as a member of Capt. Sheimer's Co., (4th Co.) 1st Battalion, Northampton County Militia in the War of the Revolution. He was corporal of this company.

John Oberly I eldest of Rudolph's five sons, born July 9th, 1746, died Aug. 19th, 1805, served as private in 4th Co., Militia, 4th Battalion of Northampton County Militia, Capt. Jessie Jones, commander, third class. (Penna. Archives, 5th Series, Vol. VIII p. 339; also as private in Capt. George Shriver's Militia Co., 3rd class, 4th Battalion, Northampton County, Pennsylvania.) (Penna. Archives, 5th Series, Vol. IV, p 338; 3rd Series, Vol. XVII pp 51 & 267; 3rd Series, Vol. XIX, p. 196; also with Frontier Rangers from 1778 to 1783, Penna. Archives, 3rd Series, Vol. XXIII, p. 305, line 39.)

RITTER LINE)

Hendrick Reuther (Henry Ritter) born circa 1712
Arrived in Philadelphia from Rotterdam 1732
|
Martin Ritter I
(1749-1827)
|
Martin Ritter II
(1781-1863)
|
Mary Ann Ritter (married to Jacob Laudenschlager)
(1807-1890)
|
Milton Jacob Laudenslager
(1843-1919)
|
Howard Jacob Laudenslager
(1866-1925)
|
Laura Mary Laudenslager (married to Harvey A. Zinszer)
(1890-

NOTE: Since Laura Mary's membership into D.A.R. was based on the Ritter Line, it seems logical and desirable to include the Ritter line in this genealogical study.

A PHILOSOPHY & CONFESSION

This about concludes the research on our immediate families and since I have several additional projects in mind, I beg your leave for a few philosophical observations. I am now "pushing" seventy-five; am blind in my right eye and deaf in my left ear; but all in all, I eat well and sleep tolerably well. However, a number of projects loom before me and seem to vie one with the other for my attention. Nevertheless, the overwhelming thought in my mind during much of my waking hours concerns you, my children — not necessarily your welfare but primarily your philosophy of life and your status with your Creator.

God has blessed us beyond compare for which we are deeply grateful. So be advised and assured that not a day passes by but that we intercede for you which intercession must have been the case with my Mother because so many problems and temptations have been solved and avoided for and by me which could not have happened by my own efforts. One is rarely able to foretell his End whether soon or in the distant future, so I earnestly beseech you, my children, to remain true and loving one to the other all the days of your life.

Perhaps a few confessions may reveal my state of mind which situations I would gladly eradicate were it humanly possible: As a small child playing in the gutter in Philadelphia, a companion of mine accidentally dropped a coin in the muddy water. We both seined for the coin. Finally I found it but instead of returning it to its owner, I hid it deeper in the mud for later appropriation. Also, in later years as an urchin, my cousin and I found great delight in cooking an egg and roasting a potato along some stream in summertime. But one day, we had trouble in procuring our eggs so I suggested trying my father's hennery. So we tried the nests in my father's lumber-shed. Unluckily, our first find was a brooding hen hatching a setting of eggs. I no more than lifted her for inspection than she gave a long, loud squawk which alerted my father in the front blacksmith shop. Fast heavy steps through the paint shop and then through the wheel-

wright shop told me that there was no time for flight in the open. What did I do but duck down beneath a pile of lumber where my heart literally thumped the ground beneath me. Father saw my vanishing cousin but not me and when later my collusion in the crime was revealed, I stoutly denied it. These two evil experiences haunt me day and night and brings me to the matter of Conscience.

My children, stealing and lying are merely the stepping-stones to more serious crimes. So cultivate a sensitive conscience and obey your conscience immediately—your conscience is God speaking to you; if it is clear and loud, God is near at hand. If it is weak and hard to understand, then Satan is getting between you and your God. This confession which I believe you will read with avidity, was, indeed, difficult to make.

As a messenger-boy, a radio operator on a ship of ill-repute and a telephoneman, I have come into contact with much worldly wickedness. I have seen wickedness and dissipation at its worst and with all types of humanity and under various situations. But having a father who with six others organized a mission Sunday School which eventually evolved into a church; and a mother who for thirty years was superintendent of the primary department of said Sunday School; and also a very close friend, the mother of my chum who herself was a former school teacher and daughter of a preacher, I had a shield which voided wickedness wherever I went. This latter lady formed of us boys a club called Cadets of Temperance long before the advent of Scouting and the Silent Movies. Nevertheless, temptation constantly lurked within our path.

With all of my experiences of which my wife, Laura, has shared most of them with me and which have taken us to Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Indiana, and Kansas. Of all these places, only in Kansas have I thrilled at the crowing of the pheasant in the early morning while working my college garden; or at the bark of a saucy squirrel in Fall; or at the mournful howl of the coyote on the prairie at night; or felt the warmth and observed the deep blue and the crimson of the Kansas skies, for all of which I thank Thee, my God and Creator.

PEOPLE WHO MOST INFLUENCED MY LIFE FOR GOOD

I. My Mother, Anna Maria Zinszer nee Enghauser, who with unlimited love and understanding but with tender firmness taught me the Good Way of Life.

II. "Aunt" Amanda, Mrs. Edwin Kichline, mother of my bosom friend and boyhood chum, whose home opened the world of literature and music for me, and in whose home I was ever welcome.

III. Ambrose J. Heller, my 8th grade teacher and graduate of Kutztown Normal school, who opened my eyes to the wonders of Education and Mathematics.

IV. Rev. Daniel Schoedler, D. D., a scholarly and godly man, who confirmed me into the German Reformed Church and offered to teach me Greek.

V. Percy Ruhe, newspaperman and editor, a friend during my telegraph days, who by precept and example, showed me the beauty and possibilities of the written word.

VI. Headmaster A. A. Kunkle, who understood my aspirations and who fashioned my college preparatory work at Allentown Prep.

VII. General Harry C. Trexler, financier and philanthropist, who made it possible for me to complete my last year at Prep and who later came to the rescue while I was completing my doctorate.

VIII. Barry MacNutt, Head of Physics at Lehigh University, who tendered me a scholarship and who safely saw me through the bachelor and master's degrees.

IX. Nat Emery, Comptroller and Vice President of Lehigh, who made numerous small gifts and undoubtedly backed any move toward increases in stipend for me.

X. William Cleveland (Pop) Thayer, L.H.D., who taught me Poetics and Philology at Lehigh and whose sympathetic attitude in a most crucial period of my life helped me to find myself when on the threshhold of sorrow and remorse.

XI. Joseph Benson (Googoo) Reynolds, Ph. D., professor of mathematics, who by precept and example taught me to commune with my God.

XII. Robert (Bobby) Horn, Ph. D., professor of Greek and French at Muhenberg College, who when I needed two years credit in French to graduate, enrolled me simultaneously in B e g i n n i n g and Intermediate French topping this by having me translate all of "La Belle France" thus making a year's credit at Lehigh an actuality.

XIII. Arthur L. Foley, Ph. D., Head of Physics and International authority on Sound and Instantaneous photography, who directed my research toward the doctor's degree in 1926 and who in 1928 found it expedient to have me read all his MSS. for his book on College Physics.

XIV. William A. Lewis, LL. D., president of Fort Hays Teachers College, who in 1929 employed me as Head of Physics and Astronomy with the specific directive that I undertake the direction of graduate work in Physics and also that I select and install a large refracting telescope to be used both for instructional purposes and for public entertainment.

XV. Rev. David McCleave, D. D., pastor of First Presbyterian Church, who sought me out as superintendent of the Sunday School and who ordained me as an elder.

XVI. Emory Leon Chaffee, Ph. D., S. D., Professor of Physics and Communication Engineering, also Director of Officers' Training School in Electronics at Harvard University, who employed me as an instructor in Electronics during 1944 and 1945 which made life for me in Cambridge and environs a dream out of this world.

XVII. My wife, Laura Mary Zinszer, nee Laudenslager, who chose me as her husband and who bravely accompanied me through all the vicissitudes of a strenuous life and most of all who bore my children and put up with the hardships and trials of raising and educating six wonderful children.

"Ewigkeit in der Zeit. leuchte hell hinein, dasz uns werde klein das Kleine und das Grosze grosz — Sel'ge Ewigkeit." (May Eternity in our Time illumine brightly within so that to us may be reflected little of the Small, and much of the Great — Blessed Eternity!

—Anon

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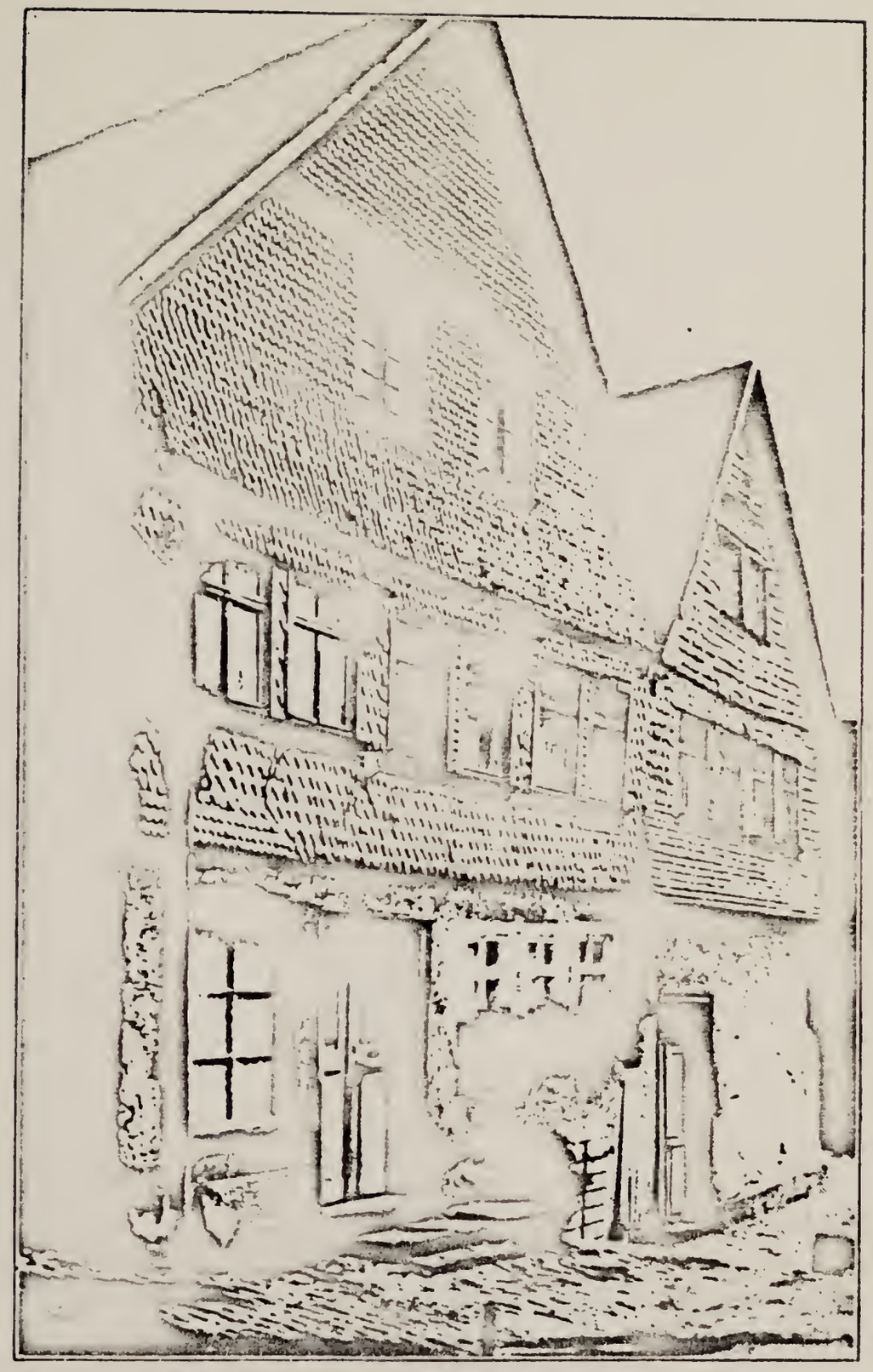
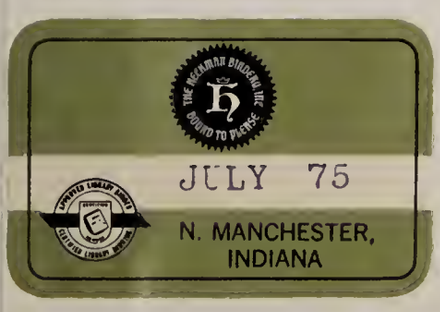


Das alte Zinßersche Stammhaus (Färberei) in Grünberg (Oberhessen), aufgenommen am 12 Juli 1934. Johann Martin Zinßer hat es 1690 von der Witwe seines Schwiegervaters Jost Schmitt für 30 R (die Mange daneben für 15 R) gekauft (R wahrscheinlich = Gulden). (Siehe Tafel 7.)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